

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10. (Cancelled).

11. (New) An image forming apparatus which is managed by a management server, comprising:

a first communication unit connected to said management server by a network line;

a second communication unit connected, by a communication channel other than the network line, to an external computer which provides data for printing and is accessible to said management server;

a function implementation unit which performs processing and printing of data obtained from at least said first and second communication units; and

a control section which detects internal statuses of said image forming apparatus, and sends detection results to said management server from said first communication unit as intra-apparatus information, said control section being configured to confirm availability of the communication channel between said second communication unit and said computer, upon occurrence of abnormality in the communication between said management server and said first communication unit, and to cause the intra-apparatus information to be forwarded to said management server via said computer.

12. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first communication unit is further connected to said computer by said network line.

13. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said function implementation unit includes an image processing section, a scanner section and a printer section.

14. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said second communication unit includes a parallel, USB, or Bluetooth interface.

15. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control section is configured to perform a control of said computer for accessing said management server via a network or telephone line.

16. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said image forming apparatus further comprises a third communication unit which performs facsimile transmission, and said control section is configured to confirm availability of the communication channel between said third communication unit and said management server in a higher priority than that of the communication channel between said second communication unit and said computer, upon occurrence of abnormality in the communication between said management server and said first communication unit, to convert the intra-apparatus information into an image of a two-dimensional bar code or characters, and to cause the image to be subjected to facsimile transmission to said management server.

17. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said control section is configured to perform a guidance display relating to a contact with a service center or a check on the connection between said computer and said second communication unit, in a case where both of the communication channel between said second communication unit and said computer and the communication channel between said third communication unit and said management server are unavailable.

18. (New) An information communicating method for an image forming apparatus which includes a first communication unit connected to said management server by a network line, a second communication unit connected, by a communication channel other than the network line, to an external computer which provides data for printing and is accessible to said management server, and a function implementation unit which performs processing and printing of data obtained from at least said first and second communication units, comprising:

detecting internal statuses of said image forming apparatus;

sending detection results to said management server from said first communication unit as intra-apparatus information; and

confirming availability of the communication channel between said second communication unit and said computer upon occurrence of abnormality in the communication between said management server and said first communication unit, and causing the intra-apparatus information to be forwarded to said management server via said computer.

19. (New) The information communicating method according to claim 18, wherein said first communication unit is further connected to said computer by said network line.

20. (New) The information communicating method according to claim 18, wherein said function implementation unit includes an image processing section, a scanner section and a printer section.

21. (New) The information communicating method according to claim 10, wherein said second communication unit includes a parallel, USB, or Bluetooth interface.

22. (New) The information communicating method according to claim 18, which further comprises performing a control of said computer for accessing said management server via a network or telephone line.

23. (New) The information communicating method according to claim 18, wherein said image forming apparatus further comprises a third communication unit which performs facsimile transmission, and said information communicating method further comprises confirming availability of the communication channel between said third communication unit and said management server in a higher priority than that of the communication channel between said second communication unit and said computer, upon occurrence of abnormality in the communication between said management server and said first communication unit, to convert the intra-apparatus information into an image of a two-dimensional bar code or characters, and causing the image to be subjected to facsimile transmission to said management server.

24. (New) The information communicating method according to claim 23, which further comprises performing a guidance display relating to a contact with a service center or a check on the connection between said computer and said second communication unit, in a case where both of the communication channel between said second communication unit and said computer and the communication channel between said third communication unit and said management server are unavailable.